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Peaks Island Star

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Peaks Island Star : March 2018, Vol. 38, Issue 3

Service Agencies of the Island

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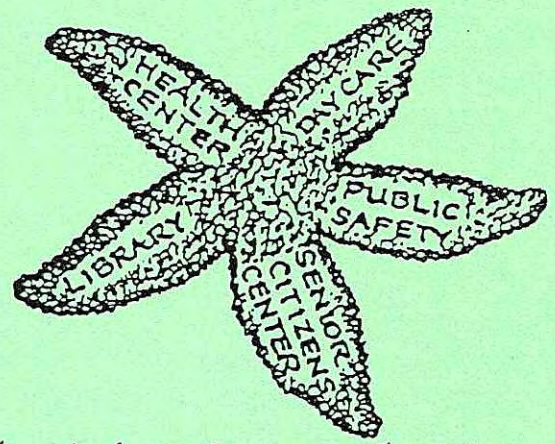
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Peaks Island STAR



Newsletter of the Island's Service Agencies & other Community News

March 2018

Volume 38

Issue 3



Redevelopment of the Whale Wall Building

Peaks Island Council invites islanders to a presentation on the future of the Whale Wall Building and the Maine State Pier.

Wednesday, March 7

6:00 p.m. to 7:15pm

Peaks Island School, Gymnasium

City of Portland staff will present a summary of redevelopment concepts for Maine State Pier and seek feedback and input from year-round Island residents. The meeting will include: presentation of concepts; input on parking, traffic, circulation; and input on products and services for a potential market

The meeting is planned as one of a series of forums with current and potential stakeholders including industry representatives, Maine State Pier tenants, other Casco Bay islanders, and the public. City staff will use information gathered at these meetings to improve current concepts and to inform decision making moving forward.

Peaks Island Land Preserve

A Late Winter Walk -- Sunday, March 11, 10:30 am -- meet at the elementary school.

We will decide on the land and trails to visit depending on snow and mud conditions, and walk a loop that will take us out for about an hour and a half. Everyone is welcome to join us!

www.peaksislandlandpreserve.org

preservepeaks@gmail.com

March at the Peaks Island Branch Library

766-5540 email: peaks@portlandpubliclibrary.org

Hours Open: Tues 2-8 Wed 10-4 Fri 10-2 Sat 8-12

An Exciting Part of the Renovation has been having the branch library's Peaks Island history materials digitized. They are on the Portland Public Library's Digital Commons that you can access by typing in the following link: http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/peaks_island_archives/ or by going to the Portland Public Library website and choosing PPL Digital Commons in the dropdown menu of the Research tab. There are copies of scrapbooks, postcards, photographs, clippings, videos, and more for you to access online. The Portland Room staff carried out the project, which was supported by grants from the Casco Bay Island Development Association (CBIDA) and the Peaks Island Fund and the volunteer efforts of Monica Stevenson, Nancy Hall and Sarah Alechnowicz. All the items that were digitized are now in archival quality boxes and will be available for hands-on access in the Peaks Island Branch Library after the renovation is complete.

Community Building and Library Renovation Photos are available on the Portland Public Library's Facebook page which you can access from the library's website www.portlandlibrary.com as well as from the Friends of the Peaks Island Library Facebook page.

First Tuesdays Book Discussion will meet on March 6 at 7 pm to discuss *A Sudden Country* by Karen Fisher. That meeting will be at St. Christopher's parish community room. On April 3 the book discussion will be at 6:30 pm at Peaks Island Elementary School. The Fifth Graders will join the adults in a discussion of *The Other Boy* by M.G. Hennessy, a novel in which the main character is a transgender boy and the book's primary theme is his and his peers grappling with that truth. Each fifth grader has their own copy of the book, purchased by the Friends of the Peaks Island Library. We hope their parents will read this book too and come to the discussion. The April meeting is the one time the Book Discussion group is open to ALL ages.

Middle School Book Club will meet at the Brackett Memorial Church Hall on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:45 pm. We will have treats and conversations about books. If you regularly attend or haven't been in the past, ask a middle school friend to attend with you.

Weekly Children's Programs:

Preschool Story Time, Wednesday at 10:15

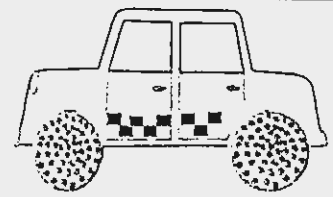
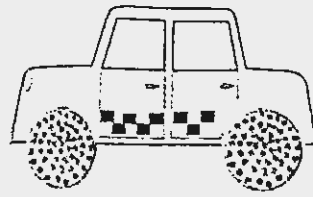
Infants and Toddler Time, Friday at 10:15

Free Magazines and Books at The Legion

Our American Legion Post 142 on Welch Street is now the temporary home for the Peaks Island exchange of free magazines and paperback books. They are located at the entrance to the Post, which is open from 4 PM until closing every day except Tuesdays.

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NEWS FROM THE TAXI



HOPE TO SEE YOU AT FLATBREAD ON TUESDAY MARCH 6th

Following our successful 2017 FLATBREAD fundraiser, FLATBREAD has welcomed us back for **another evening of celebration and support**. Join your island neighbors or invite some of your mainland friends and family to meet you at this **FLATBREAD fest from 5 to 9 pm on the March 6th**.

FLATBREAD will be donating to the Peaks Taxi \$1.75 for every small and \$3.50 for every large pizza they sell on the evening of March 6th (carry-out included and "half-baked" will be available).

We will also have a fun **raffle** and plan to unveil some **pictures of the new taxi** that is now on order and expected to arrive sometime in April.

Looking forward to a turnout as wonderful as it was last year!

Peaks Island Fund

The Peaks Island Fund will host its annual breakfast for island non-profits Saturday, March 17th at Brackett Church. We have been working this year to make the grant process clearer and easier to complete. Gloria Aponte Clarke from the Maine Community Foundation will present our new application and new grant opportunities. She will also be available after the breakfast to meet with any interested non-profit leaders who would like to discuss their organization's work or learn more about grant writing. In addition, Art Astarita will present information on the new PeaksIsland.info Website and Community Calendar.

Breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 and the presentations will be roughly from 9:00-10:45.

Please RSVP with the number of attendees from your organization and whether you would like to meet with Gloria to kathryn.moxhay@gmail.com or 239-8662. Hope to see you there.

Peaks Island Health Center

87 Central Ave. P.O. Box 52
www.peaksislandhealthcenter.org

Hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Kitty Gilbert, Family Nurse Practitioner, provides care for all ages.
Please call either **766-2929** or **874-2466** for an appointment.

2018 Scholarships

Are you a Peaks Island high school senior making a health career choice in an accredited education program or college?

Are you an adult islander changing your career path towards healthcare?

If so, consider applying for a Peaks Island Health Center Scholarship. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded this summer, drawing on proceeds from the annual Clamshell Relay Race on July 4.

Join the next generation of healthcare providers on Peaks. Islanders engaged in or entering training for such careers as certified nurse assistant (CNA), emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic, medical technician, physical therapist, physician assistant, nurse, advanced nurse practitioner or physician are eligible. This list is not exhaustive -- if you don't see your area of study here, please inquire by emailing Dr. Chuck Radis, cradis@maine.rr.com.

To access the scholarship application, go to www.peaksislandhealthcenter.org, select Special Events and Clamshell Relay Race. Applications are available at the Peaks Island Library as well. Deadline to apply is May 15, 2018.

Free Medical Equipment Available

Crutches, walkers wheelchairs and other equipment are all available temporarily for free from the Peaks Island Health Center and St. Christopher's Parish. The equipment is stored at St. Christopher's and is provided on a first come, first served basis at no charge. Borrowers are only asked when they plan to return it and also relieve the program of any liability.

For more information, contact Kay Taylor at 766-2811 or islapicos@maine.rr.com; or David Vincent at 603-496-6989 or davidlv55@gmail.com.

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Peaks Island Elementary School
By Renee Bourgoine-Serio

Kindergarten and pre-K registration begins at PIES

We are very excited to announce that we will be adding two grade levels at PIES next year. In addition to adding a new kindergarten class, we will also be offering full day (8:20-3:05, M-F) public pre- K at our school starting in the fall of 2018. We are happy to collaborate with Peaks Island Children's Workshop to make this happen and in turn provide more childcare space on island for current and future young families.

Registration for both pre-K and K will begin in late February and run through the month of March here at school. Please spread the word with your island neighbors with young children.

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, March 21-22

Student led conferences are coming to PIES on March 21 and March 22. This is the perfect time of year for students to sit down with their parents and teachers and reflect on their academic and social-emotional goals. We hope to again have 100% attendance for these critical meetings.

Mentors Needed at Peaks Island Elementary School

Would you like to make a difference in a child's life? Do you have an hour to spare each week? PIES has a current need for two volunteer mentors. These mentors would be asked to commit to meeting with one student, twice a week, at 12:45-1:15pm. Mentors would read and talk about books, providing encouragement and support to their student. Interested? Please email Julie Soule at souleju@portlandschools.org or call 838-3097. Thank you!

**TEIA Scholarship for
2018 High School Graduates**

A \$2,000. scholarship is available for graduating seniors planning post-secondary education. The student must be a Peaks Island resident and attend a high school in the greater Portland area. Applications are available at the Peaks Island Library and online by contacting Barbara Hoppin at bahoppin@gmail.com. Applications are due by April 1st.

This is a great opportunity so supplement your college fund and we encourage graduating seniors to apply.

Eighth Maine Memorial Association Scholarship

If you are a graduating High School senior who resides on Peaks and are planning on furthering your education, please apply for the Eighth Maine Memorial Association (\$500.00) Scholarship. Applications will be available at the Peaks Island Library as of December 1, 2017, and must be submitted by March 1, 2018. Questions? Contact Carol Knapp, email: mainecamp@icloud.com

St. Christopher's Catholic Church

Rector: Father Greg Dube at 773-7746

Sunday Mass is at 10 AM each week throughout the month. Details for other Masses in Portland are at <http://www.portlandcatholic.org/> For info concerning Baptism, Reconciliation & Marriage, please contact Father Greg.

Rosary: The Scripture Studies Group invites all to pray the Rosary for special intentions and world peace at 9:30 AM before Mass each Sunday.

AA meets Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 PM in the Parish House.

Share Scripture with Islanders from 9:30 to 11 AM each Wednesday in the Parish House on Central Avenue.

SENIOR NEWS

Let's celebrate the promise of Spring at our March Luncheon on Monday, the 12th, at the Fay Garman House. Please bring a dish to share and join us at noon. All Seniors are welcome!

The Fay Garman House is hosting **Chair Yoga** every Tuesday starting at 4 pm for about an hour. Chair yoga is a great way to relax from head to toe without the stress of getting out of your chair. There is no charge for these yoga sessions and are open to anyone who wants a quick way to stretch their body and relieve tensions.

Peaks Island Community Food Pantry

The Peaks Island Community Food Pantry is in the Brackett Memorial Church and is open on Mondays at 3:30–5pm. Our mission is to provide food assistance to our island neighbors in need. We are grateful for the donations and support provided by many different individuals and organizations from Peaks Island.

Our ongoing needs are black beans, garbanzo beans, kidney beans, green beans, corn, peas, toilet paper, small jars of mayonnaise, peanut butter and jelly. You can send in cash donations using the Paypal donation button on our website, www.peaksislandfoodpantry.org. We can also accept checks made out to "Peaks Island Food Pantry" – send to Susan Hanley, 108 Brackett Avenue, Peaks Island, ME 04108.

If you have any questions or you like to arrange a food drop off contact Susan Hanley, 207-332-2443.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

We are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Reconciling Congregation

9 Church Ave; 207-766-5013; brackettmumc@gmail.com; www.brackettmumc.org

Rev. Angela Rotherham, Pastor



Anyone is welcome to join any of our worship, fellowship, or mission opportunities.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10am. Followed by an informal time of food and fellowship in the church hall.

Adult Scripture Study Tuesdays, 10:30-noon and Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm in our Church Family Room

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fridays, 10:30-noon in our Church Family Room.

Peaks Island Food Pantry at Brackett Church, Mondays, 3:30-5pm.

Weights with Rebecca Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-8:30am. To register contact Rebecca: 776-5547.

Yoga with Rebecca Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-10:30am. To register contact Rebecca: 776-5547.

Tai Chi with David Wednesdays, 10:30am-noon. To register contact David: dshandwerker@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MARCH (all events are in our church fellowship hall unless otherwise stated):

Cribbage Fun – Join us on **Thursday, March 8** from 10:30-noon in the Brackett Church fellowship hall for some cribbage fun. Beginners and experts are all welcome for a morning of friendly games.

Free Community Dinner & a Movie – **Friday, March 9** from 5-6:30pm we'll enjoy a free community "Baked Potato Bar" Supper with lots of toppings to choose for your taters! Then stay for a movie in our family room from 7-8:30. In honor of our theme for Lent "Give It Up For the Earth," we'll be showing "Before the Flood" (2016 National Geographic Documentary).

Anti-Racism Movie & Conversation – **Tuesday, March 20, 6:30-9pm.** With funds from the Brackett Church Good Works Grant, we are pleased to welcome back Shay Stewart-Bouley as we continue our community-wide conversation on racism and white privilege. We'll be watching and then discussing the movie, "13th," a 2016 documentary which takes an "in-depth look at the prison system in the U.S. and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality."

Free Community CPR "Refamiliarization" – **Saturday, March 24, 9am-noon** thanks to CERT provided by the Portland Fire Department.

Holy Week Special Services:

Maundy Thursday Holy Meal – **Thursday, March 29, 7pm.** Join us as we explore the symbolism and significance of Jesus' last Passover meal with his disciples.

Good Friday Tenebrae – **Friday, March 30, 7pm.** This contemplative candlelit service takes us through the Passion of Christ.

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil – **Saturday, March 31, 9am-9pm.** The sanctuary will be open for silent prayer as we contemplate Jesus in the tomb and reflect on our own hours of darkness.

Easter Sunrise Service followed by **Pancake Breakfast** – **Sunday, April 1, 6am** at **Whaleback** we'll welcome the sunrise as we celebrate the resurrection of the Christ! Then join us for warm food and warm fellowship at breakfast in the fellowship hall.

Easter Worship followed by **Easter Egg Hunt** – **Sunday, April 1, 10am.** All are welcome to worship with us and around 11:15 we'll begin our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

CERT Provides CPR Training

Have other disasters made you think about what could happen here? Our Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been practicing to assist in Island disasters.

We will have a special session featuring CPR training at the Brackett Church from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, March 24th.

Please spread the word and join us. For more info, call Al Bleau at 766-0007 or 781-962-2662.

PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP: 71 Herman Avenue: 766-2854 www.picw.org

The Peaks Island Children's Workshop (PICW) and the Peaks Island Elementary School (PIES) are excited to announce that starting fall 2018, PIES will provide full-time, public pre-kindergarten to the families of Peaks Island. This is a free program provided by the Portland Public School System for families who have children that turn 4 before October 15th. Classes will run Monday through Friday 8:20am to 3:05pm and will follow the Portland Public School academic calendar.

Starting in September, the Peaks Island Elementary School will have ten openings for pre-kindergarten students and will combine these children with Ms Zoe Ryan-Humphrey's kindergarten class to create a pre-kindergarten/kindergarten classroom. The Peaks Island Children's Workshop will continue to provide full-time, year-round child care to young children starting at 6 weeks of age. Both PIES and PICW are thrilled about this collaboration between our programs not only because it frees up space for current families to enroll their children in care but it also provides further incentive for working families to move to Peaks Island thus increasing the sustainability of our island.

If you have a child whom you would like to register for pre-kindergarten during the 2018/2019 school year, applications can be found at <https://www.portlandschools.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=1094237&pageId=7040712> and registration starts at PIES, Monday February 26th. To complete registration, parents will need to provide PIES with proof of birth (birth certificate or passport), proof of residency (lease, utilities bill or tax bill) and a current copy of your child's immunization records.

If you have any questions about this transition to public pre-kindergarten or how it might affect your child's education, please contact either Katie at PICW or Renee at PIES.

PICW is accepting applications for part/full time care on our WAIT-LIST. Contact Katie at office@picw.org for an application. The Board of the PICW is always open to suggestions and communication from the community. Please contact us through Board Chair, Judy Nelson at kirshajak@maine.rr.com

PEAKS ISLAND TAX AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE - NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The winter of 2017 - 2018 will go into the record books. The frigid temperatures meant higher than normal energy costs along with increased costs for electricity. Many of us were shocked when we saw our bills. Unfortunately some neighbors received notices that their power would be turned off. PITEA was able to assist our neighbors when we received requests for assistance. If you need energy assistance please get an application at the Peaks Island Branch of the Public Library, fill it out as directed and deliver it to a member of the Clergy. As we have stated before neighbors can fill out requests and deliver them to the clergy. We are here to assist Islanders so that we are all able to stay safe and warm!

Just as we got used to these energy bills *our* property tax bills arrived. PITEA is prepared to help homeowners whose permanent residence is on Peaks Island. Applications are available at the Library, too. Thanks to the generosity of Islanders, both year round and seasonal residents, we are prepared to assist residents. We are reminded every day that Peaks Island is a wonderful, caring, and generous community.

Our first Appetizers and Art fundraiser co-sponsored by Brackett Memorial Church and PITEA was terrific. Island artists donated their works to be auctioned off for shared profits (20% each to PITEA and Brackett and 60% to the artist). This wonderful evening was made possible through the efforts of Toookie Harris, Linda Capone Newton and Megan Selby. PITEA and Members of the Brackett Church donated food, paper goods and time for this wonderful event. The weather did not quite cooperate but we carried on as hardy New Englanders do,

Our Comfort Foods Loaf and Ladle Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 18, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Brackett Church. We will be serving Randy's famous Mac 'n cheese, Dan's super delicious meatloaf, American chop suey, Scottish pie, salads, yummy desserts and more. Please join us for an evening of delicious food, friendship and community spirit. Hope to see you then.

LORETTA VOYER FUND

Hands down, our ferry ride has got to be one of the sweetest commutes around -- until you're sick and vulnerable, when it becomes a difficult passage. To ease the journey for islanders undergoing treatment for cancer and other life-limiting illnesses, the Loretta Voyer Fund (LVF) provides tickets for a vehicle and passenger.

The Loretta Voyer Fund was created in 2000 to honor the memory of longtime Peaks Island resident Loretta Voyer, who considered every islander a neighbor and took good care of every neighbor in need. When she was diagnosed with cancer and chemotherapy exhausted her, friends and neighbors began taking her to and from treatments in their cars. This allowed her to travel with comfort and companionship while limiting her exposure as an immuno-suppressed person. In addition, the help with travel for treatments allowed her family to continue their daily work and school routines, which was important to her.

Reflecting the concern for others that Loretta Voyer demonstrated and that the island community reciprocated, the Fund seeks to respond to all who need this particular kind of support. Sixteen years since the Fund's founding, the number of requests for tickets continues to increase. The Board of Directors is grateful to all who have donated to the Loretta Voyer Fund in the past, and hopes that you will consider renewing your commitment to helping the Fund keep pace with our island's growing needs. Help keep Loretta Voyer's vision of a caring community alive.

Those interested in requesting tickets or making a tax-deductible donation may speak to any member of the LVF Board: Mary Arnold, Kathy McCarthy, Cheryl Miner, Susan Hanley, Jan Thomas, Suellen Roberts, Melissa Conrad (207 766 9736; mconrad@backshore.net).

HOMESTART NEWS

We are happy to report that our zoning proposals have been put on the Portland Housing Committee's agenda for their meeting on March 28. City planning staff are now reviewing them and their recommendations will be made public in the form of a memo on the City website, probably a week or so before the March 28 meeting.

If endorsed by the Housing Committee, the proposals will then be referred to the Planning Board for their review. And then, with luck, to City Council for their vote by early/mid summer.

We will keep you posted. Feel free to contact any Homestart board member with questions or concerns: Betsey Remage-Healey, Chris Roberts, Tim Wyant, Laura Reading, Bill Hall.

MARCH ACTIVITIES on PEAKS ISLAND
Sponsored by Portland Parks, Recreation and Facilities

All programs for adults sponsored by Portland Parks, Recreation and Facilities are now being held in the community room at St. Christopher's Church. Denise can be reached at DLM@portlandmaine.gov or you may leave a message at (207) 766-2970. Messages are checked on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Denise is not available on holidays.

LAUGHTER YOGA CLUB for ADULTS - FREE

Monday, March 5 AND April 2 10:45-11:30 am

A good laugh, either real or intentional, is good for all us. Learn how to laugh for no reason at all and gain all the benefits that laughter has to offer. Open to adults of all ages. FREE! Pre-registration not required.

WEEKLY KNIT and CHAT GROUP

Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 10:45 - 11:45 am

Join us as we continue making hats, scarves, cowls/headbands and dish cloths for charity. Stop by to see and/or buy these beautiful items. Proceeds buy much-needed socks, gloves & toiletry items to donate as well as to replenish our yarn supply

COLOR MY WORLD CALM

Friday, March 16 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Bring an Irish snack and/or your lunch. Listen (and sing?) to Irish music while coloring the adult way with friends. The benefits of coloring are many – reduces stress, relaxes your mind, sparks creativity and is FUN! Come try it with us!

**SHOPPING TRIP “SOUTH OF THE BORDER”:
RENYS (Saco) and MARDENS (Scarborough)**

Friday, March 23 10:00am/no later than 5:30 pm return

Enjoy browsing/shopping at these Maine-based stores. Shaw's and Lucky Logger Restaurant are in the same plaza as Renys. Min. is 6; fee is \$5 based on 6 people. Register/pay by 3/19

LUNCH AT PEAKS CAFÉ

Monday, March 26 Meet @ Peaks Café at 11:30am

Wear your green as special of the day will be corn beef and cabbage. Pre-registration appreciated; call Denise (766-2970). Enjoy good food, good friends and lots of fun & laughs!

CELEBRATE APRIL FOOLS DAY (a day late)

Monday, April 2 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

BYO lunch & favorite April Fools Day recipe (or the actual item) and let's have fun with some harmless pranks. See Denise for April Fools Day recipes. We'll play Scattergories.

On-going exercise program for Adults

Low-Impact Aerobics with Weights:

Mondays & Thursdays – 9:30-10:30am (St. Christopher's)

FREE Pass to the Portland Museum of Art Available at the Library

There is a Free Pass to the art museum available at all Portland Public Library branches, including Peaks Island Library. The pass, which can be reserved and/or issued ahead of the date you want it, admits 2 adults and up to 5 children. The 2018 Biennial Exhibit at the Museum is drawing a lot of attention. “Highlighting the diverse perspectives and interests of artists connected to Maine, ...this exhibition makes a powerful statement about art's impact in this historical moment.” Questions? Call, email or come into the library. Or go to the library catalog and type Free Passes in the search box.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S STAR: Sunday, March 25, by 6 pm. You may put it in the book return outside when the library is closed. Articles should be copy-ready, and please try for no more than half a page. If you have questions about formatting, please contact the library. In general headers would be 12 or 14 points and the body of the article would be 12 points, depending on what font you use. Please be aware that the STAR policy is that there is a designated person for each organization who turns in articles. If other members have information they would like to see in the STAR, they should give it to the designated person so that one article is turned in. Thank you to everyone who contributes and the volunteers who paste and photocopy the STAR each month.